A HANDBOOK

OF THE

KAVIRONDO LANGUAGE

BY

Some Fathers of St. Joseph's Society,
(Mill-Hill, London)

Containing the Grammar and Phraseology.

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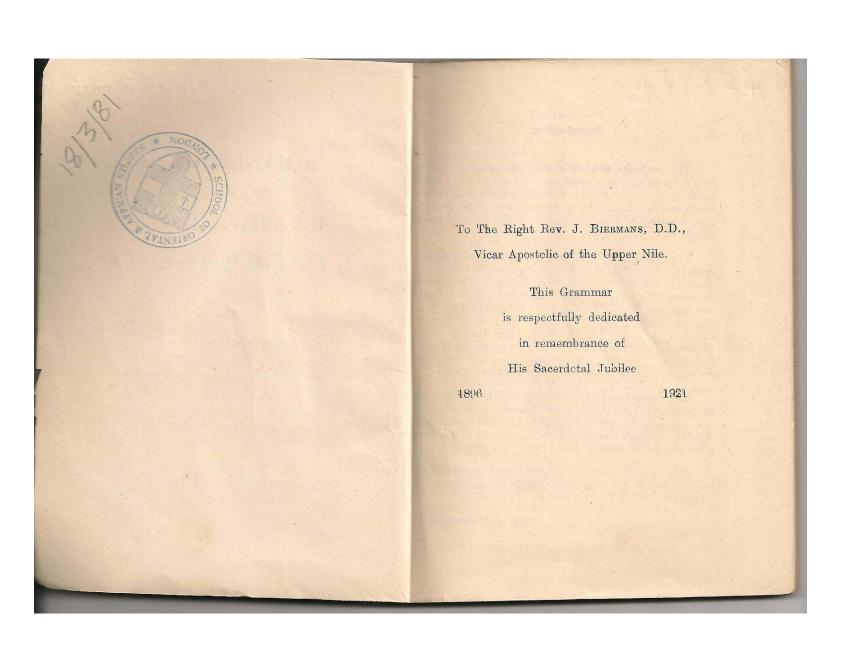
Containing the Grammar and Phraseology

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Introduction.

The language beated in this Grammar is spoken by a tribe inhabiting a great part of Kavirondo. On the north they border on the Mumias people and on the south on the Kisii. It is beyond our scope here to give a history of their settlement in the country round about Victoria Nyanza.

Their language forms one of the many dialects as garden. spoken by the Gang', Alur, Kumam, Miro and Padhola, not to mention other tribes. The people speaking this language call themselves "Luo", hence split. Gem (pronounce game). the language is called "Dholuo" (Cf. Grammer, page 15). As many "Luo", especially the younger generation, go down the line for work, the demand for grammar and vocabulary has greatly increased of late. To comply with this demand, and after many earnest be lost. requests, we decided to have this grammer printed.

The phraseology and the exercises at the end are the same as those in the First Grammar, except for a few changes in the spelling. A vocabulary, both Nilotic-English and English-Nilotic will follow soon after the publication of this.

Our trouble will be amply repaid if this book proves useful to those interested in the study of 'Dholuo''.

THE AUTHORS.

Kisumu. Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 1920.

The Alphabet.

The Alphabet in Nilotic Kavirondo consists of the following consonants:

B as in bell. Bam: to be crooked. Tobo: to speak definitely.

Ch as Ch in Kiswahili. Chak: milk. Wacho: to

D as in deed. Dol: Colobus monkey. Tedo: to

Dh as in though. Dhiyo: to go. Paodho:

F as in food. Fuwo: to be foolish.

G as in gab. Gamo: to reach over. Kago: to

H as in hat. Hato: to cut deeply.

J as ln Kiswahili. Jana Jaro: to despise.

K as in keen. Kelo: to bring. Kek: a fishscreen. L as in lid. Lamo: to worship, adore. Lal: to

M as-in Man. Min: mother. Limo: to visit.

N as in nag. Nego: to kill. Neno: to see." P as in pen. Piny: country. Top: to be rotten

R as in rat. Ramo: to hurt. Gwaro: to scratch S as in sing. Sara: fishbone. Moso: to greet. T as in tell. Tado: roof. Rito: to watch.

Th as in thatch. Thedho: to forge. Thieth: a

Besides these ordinary consonants, there are: Mb. In the beginning of a word this is one sound.

Nd. This is pronounced as one sound in the beginning of a word. Ndawa: tobacco. Ndemo: tweezers.

Ng. This consists of a DOUBLE sound, viz.:

Ng' and g, and is pronounced as our "ng" in Finger

Ngege: carp. Ngoro: cowardice.

Ng'. This is a distinct nasal, and its pronunciation is very much like the colloquial pronunciation of "'ng' in song. Ng'owo: a figtree. Bang after. behind.

Ny. This is to be pronounced as ONE sound

Nyako: girl. Piny: country.

Nte 1.—These consonants should be carefully studied because one is inclined to add an initial vowel.

NoteII.—In a few words only a slight "i" sound is heard between the "n" and "y" of Ny.

The Yowels.

A as in father. Make: to hold.

A as in fat. Kal: wimbi.

E as "a" in lake. Lemo: to pray.

E as in hen. Lendo: to clean.

E as in the French "pere." Ler: to be clean.

I as in Police. Limo: to visist. I as in tin. Lith. lwedo: finger.

O as "oa" in coach. Moso: to greet.

O as in song. Kwongo: to begin.

O as "aw" in law. Loko: to change.

U as in bull. Bur: a hole.

Note I .- The "i" has a third sound between "e" and "i" in, e.g., Matin: small. The "u" has a sound between "u" and "o" in, e.g., Lur: to be barren.

Note II.—The "y" followed by a consonant is a semivowel resembling "i". Yweyo: to sweep. When followed, however, by a vowel it becomes a consonant. Yako: to rob.

III.—The "w" is a semi-vowel, e.g., Yweyo: to breathe. In this case a slight "u" sound precedes. In some cases again it is a pure consonant, and has the continental "w" sound. Wacho: to speak.

Pronunciation.

I. In words ending with a vowel the accent is the penultima. This accent remains on that sollable notwithstanding the addition of other -lables. Pála: knife. Pélinigo: those knives.

II. In words ending in a consonant the accent alls on the last syllable. Manyakachieng': eternal. III. For emphasis' sake some vowels are drawn to a considerable length. A-a-a-a-uchiel: six.

Cho-o-o-o-n: formerly, early.

IV. In conversation the end-vowel of a word enerally drops before the initial vowel of the next word. Nga't(o)achiel obir(o)oma, One man comes to fetch me.

Spelling and Writing.

I. The words are written phonetically. When have to divide a word in syllables, we should do so on the system of "open" and "closed" syllables, e.g., Ke-lo: to bring. O-mo: to fetch.

II. Double consonants as Nd, Mb and Ng, in the middle of a word should be separated, e.g., Ken-do: fireplace. Bem-bo-re: to be tired. Don-go: to grow. III. The double consonants Nd, Mb and Ng in the beginning, and the consonants Ng' and Ny either at the beginning or at the end may never be separated. e.g., Man-di-wa: very deep.

IV. The "h" is often pronounced as "f", e.g., Fulo: to inform (for hulo). Lifudu: rainbow (for (Lihudu). In this grammar we have adopted the "h".

V. The "p" too, occasionally, is interchanged with "f", e.g., Fodi: still (for podi).

VI. Some words may have a double spelling e.g., Kwiny: or Kiny: to get angry. Lwiny or Liny:

VII. Some words beginning with "i" take occasionally a "y" as initial. Here too the "i" has been adopted throughout this Grammar. Imo: to obstruct, or Yimo: Im or Yim: ram.

VIII. Some words lose the initial "o", e.g., Oyieyo or Yieyo: rat. Ong'ong'ruok or Ng'ong'ruok: cameleon.

IX. The "a" of Ka, Da and Ma is generally dropped before the next vowel and also before the "w". K'wagero ot: when we build a house. D'atiyo: If I work.

X. The final "i" of Di, Gi, Kodi and Ki is dropped before the initial vowel of the next word. Pod'onindo: He is still asleep. Podik'abiro: I have not come yet.

Chapter I.

THE NOUN. PARAGRAPH 1.

- 1. The nouns may be divided into two classes,
- (a) Common nouns.
- (b) Proper nouns.
- 2. The Common Nouns may be subdivided into: Ordinary Class Nouns. Yath: tree. Pi: water.
- (b) Collective Nouns: Kweth: herd. Oganda:
- (c) Abstract Nouns. Hera: love. Lek: dream.
- 3. The Proper Nouns take "o" for a man, and for a woman. In case, however a man is named there a woman, his name will take "a", and should woman happen to be named after a man her name commence with "o." However, as this is of little actical use, we do not intend to treat about it.

THE GENDER.

PARAGRAPH 2.

There is no properly defined gender in Nilotic.

- 1. Quite different words are used, e.g., Dhano:
 man. Dhako: a woman. Woyi (or Wowi): a boy.
 wako: a girl.
- 2. For the big domestic animals different names also are employed. Ruath: a bull. Dwasi: a cow. Roya: a heifer. Nyaroya: a calf. Nyuok: He-goat. Sewini: She-goat.

PHRASE BOOK.

I.

USUAL.

Iriyo nade? Inindo nade? How do you do? Ariyo maber. Anindo I am well. maber. Misawa, Okwe. Good-morning. Misawa. Okwe. Good-evening. Inindi! Good-bye! Dala (or: Pacho) wacho What's the news of the ang'o? day? Dala oling'. (or) Oling' No news. aling'a. Adonji e ot koso? May I come in? Donjive. Come in. In ng'a? Who is there? Bedi piny. Sit down. Have you something to In gi wach moro? Wachni sav? moro nitive? Do you want to speak to Idwaro wacho koda? me? What do you want? Idwaro ang'o? I am busy now. An gi tich mang'env kawono (or: Tichna ng'eny kawono.) Come again at a convenient K'ineno kar wang'i, time. iduogi. Ter mos! Rit monde! Wait a little!

Call my servant. Tell me what you want. I do not understand. Go away. Be off. Do you understand? I must go now. I do not know. I will not. What do vou sav? Say it again. Speak slowly. Answer me Make haste. Be careful, take care. I cannot tell you. What is that? Who are you? What is your name? What tribe do you belong I jakanye? Where do you come from? Ia kanve? to? Where are you going to? What is the matter? Come here. I have forgotten. You have made a mistake. Ibayo wachno. Quite right! Well done! Nonsense. It won't do. Silence! Keep quiet! That will do! That is enough!

Luongi bocha, obi. Wachna gi m'idwaro. Okawinjo maber. Dhiyo. Iwinjo? Koro onego adhi. Akia. Adagi, Akwer, Okadwar. Iwacho ang'o? Wachina kendo. Wach mos. We ruyo. Duokina wach. Ret piyo. Wothimos. Maki mos. Kaw mos. Okanyal wachoni. Ma ang'o? In ng'a? Nyingi ng'a? Idhi kanve? Idwaro ang'o? Bi ka. Wiya owil. Ero! Ber! Mano miriambo. Ok kare Ling! we wach! Oromo.

Never mind! Sav on! It is false! Are you sure? It is true. Let me pass. Yes. No I do not believe it. I think so. I do not think so. What time is it? Go and look. That is your fault. It is cloudy. It is clearing up. The sun is hot. It is raining. The rain is over. I do not understand Kavironod well.

Ber, oromo. Onge gimoro. Wachi! Mano miriambo. Ing'eyo maber? Adieri. Barna, Leng'rina, Ee. Oyo. Okavive. Agalo kamano. Okagalo kamo . Sa adi? Dhi ne. Dhi ng'i. Mano wachni. Polo otimo luoch. Luoch oyawore. Chieng' kech. Koth chwe. Koth ochok. Dholuo okawinjo maber.

II.

SERVANTS, MEALS, ETC.

Tell the cook. I want something to eat. Bring some hot water. Put the water on the fire. Ket pi e kendo, Mur pi. Wash those plates. That cup is not clean. Where is the tumbler?

Wach ni jatedo. Adwaro chiemo. Kel pi maliet. Lwok sendegi. Kikombo ok ler. Ere birauli?

There is no oil in it. Don't break the glass. Wipe it carefully. Clean the table. Sweep the room. Dust the chairs. Air the blankets. Lav the table. Dish up the food at once. The water is not boiling. Boil some eggs. Did you break the saucer? In maninenogo san? Who broke it? Fetch the teapot. Ring the bell. Answer when I call you. Come when you hear the Bi k'iwinjo okot. At what time do you have Pile ichiemo sa adi? vour meals? A little coffee when I get Adwaro kahawa matin up. About six o'clock. Breakfast is at eight o'clock. Call my servant. Take this florin. Go and buy in the market. Dhi ng'iew e chiro. This is your duty every day.

Light the lamp.

Wipe the spoon carefully. Ywe kijiko mos. Mok taya. Mo orumo. Kik inegi chimni. Ywe mos ahinya. Ywe ot. Kwadhi mesa. Kwadhi buru e kombe. Mo blanketi. Pedhi mesa. Ndiki mesa. Kel chiemo koro. Pi pok'oyienyo. Tedi tong'gwen moko. Ng'a monego? Om binika mar chai. Go okot. Duokina wach k'aluongi.

k'achiew Ka piny odwaro yawore. Wagago sa arivo.

Luongi bocha. Kaw florinni. Mani tichni pilepile. Arrange your account with me in the evening. How many rupees did you Nende ing'iewo rupiya adi? spend to-day? Get me some fish. What sort of meat is to be had? There is beef every day. Ring dhiang' emabetive Sometimes mutton and goat. There is plenty of fowl. Are there any vegetables? Where does this water come from? Has it been boiled?

Make my bed properly. Close the door. Give me the keys. Clean my boots. Wash these clothes. Have you washed yourself? I have a bath every day? Alwokora pile.

This is not properly washed. That cloth is dirty. Do not use dirty dusters.

Do not go out without permission. Remain at the door.

Wang' nilosna pesani odhiambo.

Dhi omna rech. Ring'o manade mantiye e chiro? pilepile.

Ndalo moko ring rombo gi diel nitive.

Gwen nitive mang'eny. Mboga bende nitive? Pigini oa kanve?

Pigini novienyo? Pedhina kitandana maber. Chiegi dhoot. Mia funguo. Ywe wocha. Wirna wocha Lwok lepegi. Iselwokori?

Mani okolwoki maber.

Lawno chido. Kik ivwe gi vwech mochido. Kik idhi bayo ka podi k'amiyi wach. Chungi e dhoot,

Do not go into the kitchen. Kik idonji e jikoni. I will sleep in this room. Nanindi e odini. Do not come late again. Kik ichak iriwri kendo. What wages do you want? Idwaro florin adi? I will give you six florins Dwe achiel nicham florin a month. Come early in the morinng. Put on respectable clothes Irwakori gi nanga maber. Do as I tell you. Go at once. Come back quickly. Take this letter to Mr. Wait for an answer.

Give him my compliments. Do not be afraid.

Are you well? I am quite well. Are you the chief of this In ruoth mar dalani?

village? Is it an important village? Dalani ng'ongo? How many people?

How many houses? Have you a good number In gi dhok mang'eny?

of cattle? Are the people quiet? May I get something to drink?

This is not clear water. Do you get the water from the river?

auchiel. Kiny nibi okinyi.

Tim kak'awachoni. Dhivo kawono. Iduogi piyo. Ter baruwani ka Bwana. Rit majibu. Imosnae.

Kik iluor. I come to visit the people. Abiro neno jo dalani. Ringri ber? Ee, ringra ber.

> Jo dalani gin adi? Udi gin adi?

Pacho okwe? Mia gimoro, amadhi.

Pi oduore, oklew. Iumbo pi aora?

What sort of food do you Ichamo chiemo manade? Plenty of sweet potatoes. Robuon emachamo mang'eny. Oganda nitiye? Are there any beans? And meal and Indian Gi mogo gi banda? corn? How do you make this Iloso kong'o nade? liquor? With honey or sugar-Gi mor kich koso niyang? cane? Do you boil the water Ikwongo itedo pi koso? beforehand? Is the sugar-cane very Niyang' mit ahinya? sweet? Where do you get the Mor kich inwang'o kanye? honev? This house is very small. Odini tin ahinya. How can I get in by this Ti adonji nade e dhoodini? door. Your house is very dirty. Odi chido ahinya. Do you clean it every day. Iyweyo pilepile? Do the sheep sleep in the Rombe ninde e odini koso? house? The cattle rest outside. Dhok nindo oko. Is there anybody sick? Nitiye ng'ato matuwo? What is the matter with Otuwo ang'o? him? I have pains all over Ringra duto rama. my body. I feel a pain here. Ringra rama ka. I cannot take any food. Chiemo duto tinde otama.

I have fever. Midusi maka. I have disrrhoea. Adiewo I have dysentry Adiewo remo. I cannot sleep duras the Nado otama otieno. night. If you want anything K idwara gimoro, wachina. tell me. If you can get into a Kineno ringri golo luya, perspiration, you will Wang' nikwo. feel better. My arm is broken. Bada otur. Put on this ointment Wirive vadhini. Tie it up with this Itwe gi nangani. bandage. Do not stretch your arms Kik irie badi ndalo auchiel. for six days. I must go now. Koro onego adhi. I shall come over again. Naduogi kendo. Good-bve. Inindi.

IV.

WORKING.

What is your name?

Do you want work?
Do you know how to work?

Do you understand cultivation?

Do you know how to cut trees?

Nyingi ng'a?
Idwaro tich?
Ing'eyo tich?
Ing'eyo pur?

Ing'eyo pur?

Ing'eyo tong'o yien—

Put the grass aside. Throw away this banana- Wit raboloni oko. plant. Bring the banana. Cut it properly. Bring some stones. Take the potatoes to the garden. You are a lazy man. You do not know how to Ikia tich. work. You are an ass.

Ang'eyo matintin. In ng'ato matek? In jadala ng'a? Dalau bor? Namii florin abich dwe achiel. To chiemo onge. Kel ji moko. Adwaro kata auchiel. Kiny nibi okinyi.

odiechieng. Ero, bi, wadhi puodho.

Maki kwer. Pur nyaka a kaeni nyaka chopi kacha. Ket lum tenge.

Kel rabolono. Tong' maber. Kel kite moko. Ter rabuon e puodho.

In jasamuoyo.

Ifuwo.

Bi pivo.

Go on, work hard. I will beat you. I will cut your wages. This man works well.

Go and plant there. Take out the potatoes. Put them in these bags. Make haste, it will rain end it home before the rain.

Go home altogether. You will be paid tomorrow. Do not be afraid.

Tiuru pivo. Wang' nagoi. Nang'adi musachi. Ng'atni otiyo maber. I shall engage you again. Namedi tich dwe moro (or) Namedi tich kendo. Dhi pidhi kacha. Kuny rabuon. Take care not to cut them. Kuny mos, kik ipudhigi. Rwakigi e kiropegi. Reti, wang' koth nochwe. Ter dala ka koth podi.

> Dhiuru dala uduto. Kiny nunwang' musachu.

Kik uluor.

V.

IN CARAVAN.

Are any porters to be had? D'anwang' joting'? How many do you want? Idwaro adi? Five hundred. Go and look for some more. The villages are far away. Miergi bor. Send out a few men to search. I cannot get any men. They have gone to the

fields.

Mia abich. Dhi dwar joting' moko.

Or ji moko, modo odwar.

Ji otama. Gisedhi puothegi.

I cannot wait for them. They will have 6 florins a month Get a good headman. If you find him out, wait K'inwang'o oonge, irite till he comes back. Did you forget my message? You have deceived me. If you are good, I shall reward you. If you steal, you shall go to jail. Wake me early in the morning. Ask if you want to go out. K'dwaro bayo, ikwa wach.

out.

Okanyal ritogi. Ginicham florin auchiel dwe achiel. Dwar nyapara maber. nyak'oduogi. Wiyi owil gi wachna koso?

Niwuonda. K'iber, namii gir tiendi.

K'ikwalo, notwei.

Kiny nibi ichiewa okinyi.

Admit no one when I am Kik iyiye ng'ato donji e ot k'aonge.

TIT.

A VISIT TO A VILLAGE.

Where is the chief? Ruoth ni kanve? He is at home. En dalane. Call him out. Dhi luonge, obi. Tell him I want to see Wachne adwaro nene. him. Have they come? Gisebiro? I will write down their Adwaro ndiko nyingegi names at once. kawono. Go and bring some Dhi, om moko. others.

We shall start to-morrow. Kiny wanadhi safar. Take care you are all readv. Have you all the loads ready? Some of the loads are too heavy. Take out some things.

And make another load. Beat the drum. Bring out the loads. Tie them up quickly. I have no rope. Look sharp and get some. Whose load is this? Call the porters. Carry this box upright. Is the tea ready? I have finished, take it. away. Take this tent down. Count the loads. All ready then. Beat the drum again. May we go in front? Yes, as far as the first Camp. Are there robbers in these Joka jokuo? parts? Yes, strangers are attacked and their

loads stolen.

Ng'iuru, ubi udoto.

Isetweyo gikmoko duto?

Musike moko pek.

Gol moko (or we moko). Gi m'igolo itwe kanyakachiel. Go bul. Gol gikmoko duto. Twe pivo. Aonge tol. Ret piyo, dhi dwar. Won gigi ere? Luongi joting'. Sandugini iting' tir. Chai chiek? Atieko, kaw oko.

Pudhi hema. Kwan musike duto. Girumo giduto. Go bul kendo. Lyive watel wive? Ee, wothuru nyaka chopi kama wan, wananindiya

Ee, jomodong' chien omakigi, omagi gik ma giting'o.

Every man shoulder his load. No choosing. Halt, we will rest here. How long shall we stop here? Put the loads together.

Call those men back. What time shall we reach Wanachopi kampi karcamp? What is this place called? Kaeni iluongo n'ang'o? Is this river deep? Can we wade across? Are there crocodiles? Here we are. Put the loads down. Set the min order Where is my tent? Bring it here and pitch it. Kel kani, igur. The sun is very hot. Cook, make some tea. This water is muddy.

Go and look for some clean water. What do you want for dinner? The meat was finished vesterday. Send a man to buy some food.

Makuru uduto. Kik'uvier. Weuru, waywe kaeni. Waywe nyaka karang'o? Chokuru gikmoko kanyakachiel. Luong joka, aduogi. ang'o? Aorani tut? D'wanyal yoro? Nyang' sitive? Wasechopo, yaye. Keturu gikmoko piny. Changiuru maber. Hemba ere? Chieng' kech ahinya. Jatedo, losna chai. Pigeni rach (or Pigeni oduore). Dhi, dwar pi malew.

anything? Wang' nicham ang'o otieno? some beads. Ring'o nvo orumo nyoro.

Or ng'ato odhi ong'iew chiemo.

Tell him to buy some potatoes. You have been a long time getting dinner. Sir, the chief wants to see vou. Tell him to walk in. I want a guide to show

me the road. Ask him what he wants. Tell him he shall get it to-morrow.

I am tired. I shall go to bed. Grease my boots. Shut the tent. Call me early in the

morning. Sir, one porter has run away. When did he go? At dusk yesterday.

Did you see him take Yes, some clothes and

Follow him, and if you get him, tie him and bring him back.

Wachine ong'iew rabuon.

Manyakanende ichak teko. dak anwang' chiemo. Bwana, ruoth owaro neni.

Wachine, odonji. Adwaro ng'ato, onyisa yo.

Penje gi m'odwaro. Wachine, kiny nonwang'.

Aol. Adhi nindo. Wirna wocha. Chiegi hema. Kiny nibi ichiewa okinyi.

Bwana, jating' achiel opondo. Nopondo karang'o? Nyoro opondo otieno (or nyoro opond ka piny ovuso). Ineno odhi kodi gimoro?

Ee, odhi gi lewini moko kendo gegini bende odhi

Lawe, k'inwang'e t'itwee iduoge.

Two more loads missing, Bwana, a thief took them in the night. The chief will be respon-Mano wach ruoth. sible.

Wananindi arivo ka.

We will stop two days here. What game is in these

parts?

We will hunt to-day.

Keep the head and horns Kanna wiye gi tunge. for me.

Light large fires.

to see him.

Which is the best road to Yo maber ere? go by?

This road is blocked. Give me a guide.

There is danger ahead of Gik maricho ni nyimi. you.

Go carefully. Let us lead.

This is a fine country. Are there many natives? Is food dear or cheap? Will we get meat? Do they sell sheep?

How much a goat?

Sanduku ariyo bende onge. jakuo nokawogi otieno.

Le manade mantive e

pinyni? Wang' wanadhi dwar tinende.

Let the porters have the Jotich gikaw ring'o duto.

Mok mach maduong'. Tell the chief I am coming Wachi ni ruoth, abiro nene.

Yorni odinore. Mia ng'ato onvisa.

Wothi mos. Watel. Pinvni ber. Ji nitive mang'env? Chiemo tek koso ber? Wanwang' ring'o dala ka? Nitive rombe m'ing'iewo? Diek ing'iewo nade?

Do they take florins? Tell the chief that 1 want a sheep and potatoes for the porters. How much does he want for that?

Does he want florins? Or clothes or beads?

Givive florin? Wcahi ni ruoth, adwaro rombo gi rabuon mar

joting'. Magi ing'iewo pesa adi?

Odwaro florin? Koso nanga koso gagi?

